

**§ 2342. Unlawful acts**

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person knowingly to ship, transport, receive, possess, sell, distribute, or purchase contraband cigarettes or contraband smokeless tobacco.

(b) It shall be unlawful for any person knowingly to make any false statement or representation with respect to the information required by this chapter to be kept in the records of any person who ships, sells, or distributes any quantity of cigarettes in excess of 10,000 in a single transaction.

(Added Pub. L. 95-575, §1, Nov. 2, 1978, 92 Stat. 2464; amended Pub. L. 109-177, title I, §121(a)(2), (b)(2), Mar. 9, 2006, 120 Stat. 221, 222.)

**Editorial Notes****AMENDMENTS**

2006—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 109-177, §121(b)(2), inserted “or contraband smokeless tobacco” after “contraband cigarettes”.

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 109-177, §121(a)(2), substituted “10,000” for “60,000”.

**Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries****EFFECTIVE DATE**

Subsec. (a) of this section effective Nov. 2, 1978, and subsec. (b) of this section effective on first day of first month beginning more than 120 days after Nov. 2, 1978, see section 4 of Pub. L. 95-575, set out as a note under section 2341 of this title.

**§ 2343. Recordkeeping, reporting, and inspection**

(a) Any person who ships, sells, or distributes any quantity of cigarettes in excess of 10,000, or any quantity of smokeless tobacco in excess of 500 single-unit consumer-sized cans or packages, in a single transaction shall maintain such information about the shipment, receipt, sale, and distribution of cigarettes as the Attorney General may prescribe by rule or regulation. The Attorney General may require such person to keep such information as the Attorney General considers appropriate for purposes of enforcement of this chapter, including—

(1) the name, address, destination (including street address), vehicle license number, driver’s license number, signature of the person receiving such cigarettes, and the name of the purchaser;

(2) a declaration of the specific purpose of the receipt (personal use, resale, or delivery to another); and

(3) a declaration of the name and address of the recipient’s principal in all cases when the recipient is acting as an agent.

Such information shall be contained on business records kept in the normal course of business.

(b) Any person, except for a tribal government, who engages in a delivery sale, and who ships, sells, or distributes any quantity in excess of 10,000 cigarettes, or any quantity in excess of 500 single-unit consumer-sized cans or packages of smokeless tobacco, or their equivalent, within a single month, shall submit to the Attorney General, pursuant to rules or regulations prescribed by the Attorney General, a report that sets forth the following:

(1) The person’s beginning and ending inventory of cigarettes and cans or packages of smokeless tobacco (in total) for such month.

(2) The total quantity of cigarettes and cans or packages of smokeless tobacco that the person received within such month from each other person (itemized by name and address).

(3) The total quantity of cigarettes and cans or packages of smokeless tobacco that the person distributed within such month to each person (itemized by name and address) other than a retail purchaser.

(c)(1) Any officer of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives may, during normal business hours, enter the premises of any person described in subsection (a) or (b) for the purposes of inspecting—

(A) any records or information required to be maintained by the person under this chapter; or

(B) any cigarettes or smokeless tobacco kept or stored by the person at the premises.

(2) The district courts of the United States shall have the authority in a civil action under this subsection to compel inspections authorized by paragraph (1).

(3) Whoever denies access to an officer under paragraph (1), or who fails to comply with an order issued under paragraph (2), shall be subject to a civil penalty in an amount not to exceed \$10,000.

(d) Any report required to be submitted under this chapter to the Attorney General shall also be submitted to the Secretary of the Treasury and to the attorneys general and the tax administrators of the States from where the shipments, deliveries, or distributions both originated and concluded.

(e) In this section, the term “delivery sale” means any sale of cigarettes or smokeless tobacco in interstate commerce to a consumer if—

(1) the consumer submits the order for such sale by means of a telephone or other method of voice transmission, the mails, or the Internet or other online service, or by any other means where the consumer is not in the same physical location as the seller when the purchase or offer of sale is made; or

(2) the cigarettes or smokeless tobacco are delivered by use of the mails, common carrier, private delivery service, or any other means where the consumer is not in the same physical location as the seller when the consumer obtains physical possession of the cigarettes or smokeless tobacco.

(f) In this section, the term “interstate commerce” means commerce between a State and any place outside the State, or commerce between points in the same State but through any place outside the State.

(Added Pub. L. 95-575, §1, Nov. 2, 1978, 92 Stat. 2464; amended Pub. L. 107-296, title XI, §1112(i)(2), Nov. 25, 2002, 116 Stat. 2277; Pub. L. 109-177, title I, §121(a)(3), (b)(3), (c), (g)(1), Mar. 9, 2006, 120 Stat. 221, 222, 224; Pub. L. 111-154, §4, Mar. 31, 2010, 124 Stat. 1109.)

**Editorial Notes**

## AMENDMENTS

2010—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 111–154 amended subsec. (c) generally. Prior to amendment, subsec. (c) read as follows: “Upon the consent of any person who ships, sells, or distributes any quantity of cigarettes in excess of 10,000 in a single transaction, or pursuant to a duly issued search warrant, the Attorney General may enter the premises (including places of storage) of such person for the purpose of inspecting any records or information required to be maintained by such person under this chapter, and any cigarettes kept or stored by such person at such premises.”

2006—Pub. L. 109–177, §121(g)(1), substituted “Record-keeping, reporting, and inspection” for “Recordkeeping and inspection” in section catchline.

Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 109–177, §121(a)(3)(A), (b)(3), (c)(1), in introductory provisions, substituted “10,000, or any quantity of smokeless tobacco in excess of 500 single-unit consumer-sized cans or packages,” for “60,000” and “such information as the Attorney General considers appropriate for purposes of enforcement of this chapter, including—” for “only—” and, in concluding provisions, struck out “Nothing contained herein shall authorize the Attorney General to require reporting under this section.” at end.

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 109–177, §121(c)(3), added subsec. (b). Former subsec. (b) redesignated (c).

Pub. L. 109–177, §121(a)(3)(B), substituted “10,000” for “60,000”.

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 109–177, §121(c)(2), redesignated subsec. (b) as (c).

Subsecs. (d) to (f). Pub. L. 109–177, §121(c)(4), added subsecs. (d) to (f).

2002—Pub. L. 107–296 substituted “Attorney General” for “Secretary” wherever appearing.

**Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries**

## EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2002 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 107–296 effective 60 days after Nov. 25, 2002, see section 4 of Pub. L. 107–296, set out as an Effective Date note under section 101 of Title 6, Domestic Security.

## EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective on first day of first month beginning more than 120 days after Nov. 2, 1978, see section 4 of Pub. L. 95–575, set out as a note under section 2341 of this title.

**§ 2344. Penalties**

(a) Whoever knowingly violates section 2342(a) of this title shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than five years, or both.

(b) Whoever knowingly violates any rule or regulation promulgated under section 2343(a) or 2346 of this title or violates section 2342(b) of this title shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than three years, or both.

(c) Any contraband cigarettes or contraband smokeless tobacco involved in any violation of the provisions of this chapter shall be subject to seizure and forfeiture. The provisions of chapter 46 of title 18 relating to civil forfeitures shall extend to any seizure or civil forfeiture under this section. Any cigarettes or smokeless tobacco so seized and forfeited shall be either—

(1) destroyed and not resold; or

(2) used for undercover investigative operations for the detection and prosecution of crimes, and then destroyed and not resold.

(Added Pub. L. 95–575, §1, Nov. 2, 1978, 92 Stat. 2464; amended Pub. L. 99–514, §2, Oct. 22, 1986, 100

Stat. 2095; Pub. L. 103–322, title XXXIII, §330016(1)(K), (S), Sept. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 2147, 2148; Pub. L. 109–177, title I, §121(b)(4), (d), Mar. 9, 2006, 120 Stat. 222, 223.)

**Editorial Notes**

## AMENDMENTS

2006—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 109–177 inserted “or contraband smokeless tobacco” after “contraband cigarettes”, substituted “seizure and forfeiture. The provisions of chapter 46 of title 18 relating to civil forfeitures shall extend to any seizure or civil forfeiture under this section. Any cigarettes or smokeless tobacco so seized and forfeited shall be either—” for “seizure and forfeiture, and all provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 relating to the seizure, forfeiture, and disposition of firearms, as defined in section 5845(a) of such Code, shall, so far as applicable, extend to seizures and forfeitures under the provisions of this chapter.”, and added pars. (1) and (2).

1994—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 103–322, §330016(1)(S), substituted “fined under this title” for “fined not more than \$100,000”.

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 103–322, §330016(1)(K), substituted “fined under this title” for “fined not more than \$5,000”.

1986—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 99–514 substituted “Internal Revenue Code of 1986” for “Internal Revenue Code of 1954”.

**§ 2345. Effect on State and local law**

(a) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to affect the concurrent jurisdiction of a State or local government to enact and enforce its own cigarette tax laws, to provide for the confiscation of cigarettes or smokeless tobacco and other property seized for violation of such laws, and to provide for penalties for the violation of such laws.

(b) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to inhibit or otherwise affect any coordinated law enforcement effort by a number of State or local governments, through interstate compact or otherwise, to provide for the administration of State or local cigarette tax laws, to provide for the confiscation of cigarettes or smokeless tobacco and other property seized in violation of such laws, and to establish cooperative programs for the administration of such laws.

(Added Pub. L. 95–575, §1, Nov. 2, 1978, 92 Stat. 2465; amended Pub. L. 109–177, title I, §121(b)(5), (e), (g)(2), Mar. 9, 2006, 120 Stat. 222–224.)

**Editorial Notes**

## AMENDMENTS

2006—Pub. L. 109–177, §121(g)(2), substituted “Effect on State and local law” for “Effect on State law” in section catchline.

Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 109–177, §121(b)(5), (e)(1), substituted “a State or local government to enact and enforce its own” for “a State to enact and enforce” and inserted “or smokeless tobacco” after “cigarettes”.

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 109–177, §121(b)(5), (e)(2), substituted “of State or local governments, through interstate compact or otherwise, to provide for the administration of State or local” for “of States, through interstate compact or otherwise, to provide for the administration of State” and inserted “or smokeless tobacco” after “cigarettes”.

**§ 2346. Enforcement and regulations**

(a) The Attorney General, subject to the provisions of section 2343(a) of this title, shall enforce